



June 2006

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• Legislative Update

Introduced

-Introduced and Passed May 9, Rep. H.R. 5311 to establish the **Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area**, introduced by Nancy Johnson (CT-5) and passed under suspension of the rules.

-Introduced May 23, **S.2985** (Durbin-IL) a bill to establish the **Land Between the Rivers National Heritage Area** in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes.

- Introduced May 25, S.3035 (Smith-OR), to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing the **Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area** in Washington and Oregon, and for other purposes.

-Introduced May 25, H.R. 5485 (Baird-WA), to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing the **Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area** in Washington and Oregon, and for other purposes.

FY2007 Budget

-In May, the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee passed a budget totaling \$13,800,000 for the National Heritage Areas. The Senate has not yet passed a budget.

-As of May 30, there are designation bills introduced on 20 areas and study bills introduced on eight areas. For list of the bills currently introduced, visit <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/LEG/introbills109.pdf>

• This Month in the Heritage Areas

-The **Schuylkill River National Heritage Area** has received a two-year, \$660,000 grant from the Philadelphia-based William Penn Foundation that will support increased regional coordination and management of the Schuylkill River Trail. Trail Steward Kara Wilson has been hired to work with a newly formed Trail Council to create a unified trail system. Together they will establish a standardized system of signs and access points and develop standardized maps and brochures for every section of the trail. The Trail Council, comprised of representatives from the trail's various owning and managing entities, will provide advice and direction on the management and maintenance of the trail, and help establish support for a unified trail system. Ultimately, the



trail improvements will create better access to and increased knowledge of the trail. Money from the grant will also fund a regional trail maintenance management study, enhancements to access points at three targeted areas, signage, and the creation of a volunteer network for trail maintenance. For more information, visit <http://www.schuylkillriver.org>

-**Augusta Canal National Heritage Area** reports that a marriage proposal recently took place on one of their Petersburg canal boats. The fiancé, who lives and works in DC, chartered the Petersburg boat for just the two of them, arranged a romantic dinner on the boat and then popped the question. When the fisherman on the bridge saw him get down on his knees and produce the ring, they began to applaud. When the boat passed under the bridge, she began to jump up and down, waving her ring hand shouting "I said yes! I said yes!" The fisherman began to cheer. Family and friends were waiting for the happy couple when they got back to the dock. And to think that this might not have happened without the heritage area...For more information on the Augusta Canal and their Petersburg canal boats, visit <http://www.augustacanal.com>



-The Passport stamping locations list has been updated again, thanks to comments from a committed passport stamping public. Through the **Passport to Your National Parks Program**, Eastern National, a NPS partner, provides cancellation stamps to participating national parks and areas affiliated with the NPS. Visitors to these sites collect the stamps in a special passport booklet (shown at left). We've learned that 16 national heritage areas participate in the Passport program, providing cancellation stamps in a total of 75 locations. Participation in the program is free for national heritage areas and for stamp enthusiasts. Stamps, such as those provided by Silos & Smokestacks shown at right, identify the name of the national heritage area at the top and the stamping location site at the bottom. In Silos & Smokestacks and several other heritage areas, visitors can collect unique, site-specific stamps throughout the heritage area. For more information and a list of stamping locations visit <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/INFO/passport.htm>



-The **Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor** received one of two Cooperative Conservation Awards at the Department of the Interior's 63rd Departmental Awards Convocation on May 4th in Washington, DC. The D&L was recognized for its work on the **Lehigh Gap Wildlife Refuge** reclamation project, implemented by the nonprofit Wildlife Information Center in partnership with the heritage area. The project aims to restore a 750-acre brownfield site along the Kittatinny Ridge, a migratory corridor for raptors and songbirds. Corridor technical assistance provided the center with the connections, expertise, and backing to secure land acquisition and funding. D&L staff led design of the refuge master site plan, which includes education and research; interpretation of the region's industrial history, environmental degradation, and rebirth; and a 15-mile trail network linking the D&L Trail and the Appalachian Trail. To learn more about the Wildlife Information Center, visit <http://www.wildlifeinfo.org/LGRP.htm> To learn more about the D&L, visit <http://www.delawareandlehigh.org/>

● Rebuilding After Hurricane Katrina

-The 7th **Annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference** was held May 02 in Biloxi, Mississippi. Sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Comprehensive Resource Management Plan (CRMP) project and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, this conference provided decision makers of Southern Mississippi

with smart growth and development tools, and convened leaders from around the nation to share strategies, ideas and experiences. Guest speakers with expertise in the heritage areas field included John Cosgrove, Executive Director of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and Brenda Barrett, National Coordinator of Heritage Areas at the National Park Service. Sponsors included Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Mississippi Power, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Coastal Preserves Program, Gulf Hills Conference & Convention Center and DuPont.

● News from the Alliance of National Heritage Areas

-The **Alliance of National Heritage Areas** is seeking proposals for the upcoming 2007 **International Heritage Development Conference**, June 18-21, 2007 in Detroit, Michigan. MotorCities National Heritage Area is hosting the event, which will include mobile workshops, international and nationally-known speakers, and interactive educational sessions, and plenty of opportunities to network with heritage development professionals. To view selection criteria for session proposals and to download a proposal form, visit http://www.nationalheritageareas.org/2007_conference.htm



● Grants and Awards Opportunities

-A correction to last month's bulletin: Currently, there are **372** designated *Preserve America* communities in **46** states. **56** of those communities lie within national heritage areas. For more information on the *Preserve America* initiative, visit <http://www.preserveamerica.gov>

● Conferences and Events

-During the *Preserve America* Presidential Awards ceremony (see below for further details), Mrs. Bush announced the convening of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's ***Preserve America Summit*** to be held this fall in New Orleans. Mrs. Bush stated, "The summit will convene experts in historic preservation, conservationists, cultural scholars, archaeologists, and representatives from federal agencies and the private sector. These authorities will review our national historic preservation programs and propose improvements to make them more effective. The summit will also help make our national treasures more accessible to the American public, and will help communities use their cultural attractions to boost local economies.

"Leading up to the summit, we'll have a series of 12 forums, hosted by federal agencies and private sector partners, to address a variety of preservation topics...A central element of the *Preserve America Summit* will be the restoration of historic sites devastated by natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina. Experts will determine how we can best protect historical and cultural treasures in disaster-prone regions, so that the next time a hurricane strikes, we'll be better prepared...This year marks the 40th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. Through this summit, we hope to take stock of the strides we've made over the last four decades, and determine how best to protect our rich national heritage into the 21st century and for centuries after." For more information, visit <http://www.preserveamerica.gov/06PASummit.html>

-The **8th Cultural & Heritage Tourism Alliance Conference**, *Culture is the Spark* will feature three days of innovative speakers addressing the current trends in cultural & heritage tourism, November 8-11, 2006 in Atlanta, Georgia. The Cultural & Heritage Tourism

Alliance is a group of dedicated, creative, intelligent marketing professionals who share the challenge of attracting cultural and heritage tourists to their towns, cities, regions and states.

Through mentorship and an annual conference, the Alliance is creating a forum for fresh ideas, renewed vitality and a stronger sense of community among colleagues. There is no formal office or association, no dues, and no membership. Anyone working in the industry may be part of the Alliance. For information on the Alliance and preliminary conference information email swallace@atlanta.net or visit the CHT website at <http://www.chtalliance.com>

● Publications and Resources

-The National Park Service Conservation Study Institute recently provided technical assistance to the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor to conduct a study of the Corridor's progress, strengths and challenges and to explore future management options. A report and executive summary, titled *Connecting Stories, Landscapes and People: Exploring the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Partnership*, are now available. The executive summary outlines the heritage area's accomplishments and leveraging, strengths and challenges, critical ingredients for sustaining the heritage area's efforts, and options and opportunities for future management. The full report of the heritage area study includes a retrospective of the Corridor, a more comprehensive description of the study's findings, impacts, and future options, and describes the study methodology. The project was partially funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The two documents are temporarily posted at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/REP/research.htm> until they are permanently located on the Conservation Study Institute website.



-*Curating the City* is an elegant website hosted by the *Los Angeles Conservancy* that combines social and building history with technology, creating an intimately local yet expandable and replicable model for neighborhoods around the world. It promotes the preservation of local culture and history and lists lectures and tours, and includes online lesson plans for teachers and activities for kids. The Conservancy describes the site as "*a new educational program that treats the city as a living museum, offering a fresh look at L.A.'s architectural and cultural heritage. Through architectural tours, related events, and permanent resources, Curating the City encourages the ongoing exploration -- and appreciation -- of L.A.'s unique built environment.*" Experience the



city by visiting <http://www.curatingthecity.org>

To discover more creative web-based education and planning tools and ideas, view the websites voted the *TOP 10 in 2006* by PLANETIZEN that present GIS, data, and graphics in engaging and informative ways at <http://www.planetizen.com/websites/2006>

● Other news

-The National Trust for Historic Preservation released its 2006 list of *America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places* on May 11. The designees are:

- Arts and Industries Building, Washington, D.C.
- "Survivors' Staircase," Lower Manhattan

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- Working class neighborhoods in New Orleans--shotgun houses, bungalows and Creole cottages in the Lower 9th Ward, Mid-City, Holy Cross and South Lakeview
 - Historic communities and landmarks, Gulf Coast, Mississippi
 - Blair Mountain Battlefield, Logan County, WV
 - Doo Wop Motels, Wildwood, NJ
 - Fort Snelling Upper Post, Hennepin County, MN
 - Kenilworth, IL
 - Kootenai Lodge, Bigfork, MT
 - Mission San Miguel Arcangel, San Miguel, CA
 - Over-the-Rhine Neighborhood, Cincinnati, OH

For more information on these sites and what can be done to protect them, visit <http://www.nationaltrust.org/11most/>

-On May 1, President Bush and *Preserve America* Honorary Chair, Mrs. Laura Bush announced the **2006 Preserve America Presidential Awards** at a White House Rose Garden ceremony. In the Heritage Tourism category, the two winners were:

- Maryland Heritage Areas Program: Statewide
- Mission San Luis: Tallahassee, Florida

In the Private Preservation category, the two winners were:

- Hampton Hotel "Explore the Highway with Hampton, Save-A-Landmark™" Program: Nationwide
- Tauck World Discovery Yellowstone Guest-Volunteer Program: Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho



"The four award winners epitomize the *Preserve America* initiative goals of preserving and sharing important heritage resources for their inherent economic, educational, and cultural benefits," said John L. Nau, III, chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, which helps administer the awards program. "It is especially gratifying that all of our honorees build strong coalitions involving public and private sector partners. In doing so, they spread the understanding that heritage preservation is not a cost for protecting the past but a wise and essential investment in our future."



-The **Maryland Heritage Areas Program** is founded on Maryland's recognition that heritage tourism is a key economic development and sustainable preservation strategy. Maryland encourages creation of local preservation and tourism efforts and offers a connecting framework that enjoys broad state support through the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Since the program's inception nine years ago, there are now 10 Certified Heritage Areas representing 18 counties and 62 municipalities, with three more areas pursuing certification. Every county in Maryland now includes a heritage area within its borders. For more information on the Preserve America initiative, visit <http://www.preserveamerica.gov> To learn about the Maryland Heritage Areas Program, visit <http://www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net/hb-1.html>

-In international news, the **First International Conference on Tourism and Handicrafts** was held May 13-15, 2006 in the seminar hall of Iranian National Broadcast in Tehran. This conference was organized by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and Iran's Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization (ICHTO) in order to discuss the role of handicrafts in promoting tourism industry which will result in job creation and earning more currency through attracting more tourists. This was the first international conference focused solely on the role of craft in economic development and cultural

sustainability. Visit http://www.world-tourism.org/regional/south_asia/states/iran/iranmeetings.htm for more information.

- **For more information on heritage areas, visit our [website](#).**

-If you have heritage area news to share with the 650+ readers who receive this e-bulletin, please feel free to send it to the editor.

Please forward this bulletin to others who may be interested, and encourage them to join our e-bulletin address list.

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